

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE : 323
GRAND HOTEL WELLINGTON, COMMENCING ON TUESDAY 19 MARCH AT 11.15 a.m. ¹⁹⁶³

PRESENT: Messrs J.R. Barber, (Chairman) T.S. Wheeler, J.K. Bray, D.A. Barrow, H. Cloake, D.L. Ward, and the General Secretary (Mr R.A. Fraser).

ATTENDING: Mr J. McFadzien, Editor, N.Z. Beekeeper.

MINUTES: Minutes of the ordinary Meeting held in Tauranga on 24 July 1962, and the special meeting held in Wellington on 31 October 1962, copies of which had been circulated to members were taken as read and confirmed as a true record on the motion of Messrs Wheeler and Bray.

PLASTIC HONEY-PACK AND PRICE ORDER: At the outset of the Meeting Mr Bray referred to the fact that plastic honey containers would shortly be introduced to the market by a large number of private packers. Some had already made application to the price tribunal for a special price to cover such packs but he considered that the Association should approach the Price Tribunal with a request that honey packed in such containers be covered under the Price Order. As this type of pack would be widely distributed throughout the country he considered that this move was desirable to ensure uniformity of selling prices. RESOLVED: (Bray/Cloake) "That while in Wellington the General Secretary make verbal submissions to the Trade Practises and Prices Division, Dept. of Industries and Commerce with a view to including honey packed in standard plastic containers in the official honey Price Order."

ASSESSMENT MEETING: Members noted with pleasure the response to the Executive's appeal for donations to assist in defraying the costs of the current special meetings being held jointly with Government Agencies to endeavour to determine the Industry's proper future role and prospects. RESOLVED: (Bray/Cloake) "That this Executive records its sincere appreciation of the generous donations made by Branches of the Association and Individuals towards the Assessment Meeting expenses."

The Chairman then referred to the Meeting with Government agencies which was to commence the following day, Wednesday 20 March and asked the Secretary to review the arrangements and preparations for this meeting. The latter traced the history of the negotiations which he had had with the Director General of Agriculture and the Director of Horticulture following the Executive's last meeting on 31 October 1962 and explained the reasoning behind the changed method of approach to the Industry problems. The matter was discussed at very considerable length and finally general agreement was expressed with the arrangements made for the meeting to proceed. On the question of the Executive's official representation at the Assessment Meeting there was, however, a divergence of opinion, Mr Cloake expressing this strong view that all members of the Executive should attend in the role of assessors and not merely as observers. The Secretary and the Chairman, however, believed that the Executive's official representation should be confined to one or two persons as otherwise there could be an inference of undue influence brought to bear by the Industry representatives in the carrying out of the Assessment. This would defeat the value and purpose of the Assessment Meeting. This matter also was discussed at considerable length and it was finally held over until the attendance of the Director of Horticulture, Mr A.M.W. Greig later in the afternoon. At that time the matter was, resolved by Mr Greig's statement, that he would welcome the attendance of all members of the Executive in the role of observers and that they would be free to interpolate comment of a factual nature where deemed necessary for the assistance and advice of the Assessment Committee. This procedure was acceptable to the whole Executive and it was at length RESOLVED: (Cloake/Bray) "That the President and Secretary be appointed the Executive's official representatives at the Assessment Meeting."

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS: The replies received from the Minister of Agriculture and the Honey Marketing Authority in response to the 1962 Conference resolutions were read and discussed.

Apiary Inspections - advice to Producers: The Conference resolution had requested that after an inspection of a commercial apiary by an inspector of the Department, the owner be advised within 7 days of such inspection. The Minister disagreed with the necessity for this procedure where no disease was encountered. Mr Bray recalled that this matter had been discussed at the Joint Meeting between the Association Representatives and Departmental Officers called to deal with the bacillus larvae problem and he had the feeling that agreement had been expressed at the time that it was not unreasonable that inspectors give notification following all inspections nor a hardship if a preprinted postcard was used. Advice of an inspection whether disease had been found or not was of definite benefit to producers and it was RESOLVED: "That the Minister be advised to this effect and of the Executive's prior understanding with the Department on the matter and suggesting that it be brought up for review when the Executive again met Departmental Officers for discussions on the implementation of improved measures for dealing with the B.L. Disease problem."

Research: Conference had requested the strongest possible representations to the Department of Agriculture for further extensive research to the effects of hormones on nectar secretion and effects if any, there are on bees by weedicides. The Minister agreed that additional research of this problem was required but could give no assurance that extensive research would be undertaken at present. RESOLVED: "That the Executive express satisfaction at the acknowledgment by the Minister that such research is necessary and that he be further advised that as we consider this particular matter to be of utmost importance we would hope that it would be given utmost priority when planning future research work."

IMPORTATION TO IMPROVE BEE STOCKS: Mr Bray referred to the fact that the Executive's earlier approaches to the Department of Agriculture for permission to import hybrid queens for trial testing had been vetoed. He now understood, however, that the Department's views on the attendant dangers of such an importation had been revised and considered that a fresh approach should be made to the Department. After some discussion, it was RESOLVED: (Cloake/Bray) "That the introduction of new strains of bees in egg form for testing against our existing strains be further investigated by the Department of Agriculture."

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE: At 4 p.m. the meeting received Messrs A.M.W. Greig, Director of Horticulture and E. Smaellie, Superintendent of Beekeeping. Arrangements for the holding of the Joint Assessment Meeting being held the following day were reviewed and a copy of the latest agenda was left by Mr Smaellie. The matter of representation at the meeting was finalised as referred to above. In addition to this matter the following points were also discussed:-

Bacillus Larvae Disease:- Mr Smaellie advised that some action was already being taken by Departmental Field Officers to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Meeting on B.L. The full and final implementation of the recommendations was held up meantime by the necessity for amendment to legislation and various Regulations under the Apiary's act. The drafts for such amendments were currently receiving the department's attention and would be referred to the Executive for comment before presentation to the Minister for actioning.

Bee losses in Auckland District:- The Officers advised that research had been carried out into the cause of heavy bee mortality which had occurred in the Auckland district. The research had traced the trouble to toxemia occasioned by the bees gathering nectar from the toxic karaka tree. Beekeepers in the area had been advised of the results of the research

and recommended to re-position their hives in appropriate cases.

Nectar Secretion of Clover in Waikato:- Research into the apparent failure of clover to secrete nectar in some seasons in the Waikato district had not produced any positive results. From the investigations made it appeared to the researchers that the failure of the clover crop in some years may be attributable to climatic conditions.

Tutu and Toxic Honey: Mr Smaellie advised that test hives had been placed in danger areas again this year and although the production of some honey-dew had been noted, it had not been considered of dangerous proportions such as had occurred in the previous year in Northland. The matter would continue to be watched by the Department.

Messrs Greig and Smaellie were thanked for their attendance and withdrew from the Meeting at 5.30 p.m.

HONORARY DIPLOMAS IN APICULTURE: The Secretary advised that the Examining Board of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture was meeting in Wellington on 20 March and had requested the Executive's comments on those applications already received for the Honorary Diploma in Apiculture. The following application were considered and endorsed:-

Mr W.W. Nelson, of Auckland. Mr John McFadzien of Hastings
Mr W.J. Caldwell of Invercargill. Mr J.W. Fraser of
Invercargill. Mr I.W. Forster of Oamaru.

A number of other applications had been referred for comment by the Examining Board of the Institute but there was some difference of opinion on the matter of general qualifications and it was decided to defer consideration of these until after further discussion had been held with the Director of Horticulture, Mr Greig.

Adjournment:- The meeting adjourned for dinner at 6.15pm. Following dinner the Executive again met to receive the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, Mr Gumbrell, the Manager, Mr Gosse and the Deputy Chairman, Mr J.W. Fraser. Mr Gumbrell gave a resume of a number of items currently receiving attention from the Authority among which the following were dealt with specifically:-

Honey Grading:- Reference was made to the Department of Agriculture's plan to attempt to devise a system of grading for flavour without tasting the samples graded. Although some apprehension was expressed at this proposal, it was noted that the Department would be referring its findings and recommendations to both the Authority and the Executive before any attempt was made to implement them. It was therefore agreed to defer consideration in the meantime.

Grader: It was noted that the Department was at present short of apiary staff and was proposing to train up a number of additional apiary officers so that they would be able to undertake honey grading work. It was RESOLVED: "That the Executive recommend to the Department of Agriculture that in view of the current shortage of trained officers consideration be given to the engagement of a woman to be trained in Honey grading work."

Export Standards for Comb Honey: Concern was expressed at the possibility of kamahi and other very strongly flavoured honeys being exported in comb sections with possible detriment to the main export of comb section honey which was at present returning excellent prices for Northland producers of dark coloured honeys. RESOLVED: "That this Executive considers the expanding comb honey market could be jeopardised if undesirable flavours such as kamahi are approved for export."

The informal meeting terminated at 10.45 p.m.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 20 March 1963.

HIVE REGISTRATION FEE PROPOSAL: Mr D.L. Ward presented a written report of the investigation carried out by his Central Southern Hawkes Bay Branch into the level of support likely to be accorded a hive registration fee by hobbyist beekeepers. (Copies were circulated to all members). The survey was conducted in Apiary Registration Districts Nos. 1 and 2 by postal questionnaire. Eighty-nine questionnaires were issued and of these only 38 were returned. The Investigating Committee had evaluated these 38 replies and commented upon the general reactions received. Lengthy discussion ensued as to whether this pilot investigation provided sufficient justification for the Executive to extend a questionnaire over all registered beekeepers in the Dominion. It appeared on reflection, however, that such a course may be premature until it was known definitely what level of support for an apiary registration fee would be expected by the Minister of Agriculture before he was prepared to amend legislation providing for a compulsory fee. It was at length RESOLVED: (Cloake/Bray) "That the Executive inquire from the Poultry Board or Egg Marketing Authority for details of the "Poultry Registration Fee" the manner in which it was inaugurated, the method of collection, and the income derived. Further that in the light of such advice, the Minister of Agriculture be approached for his reception to a similar scheme based on hive numbers to provide necessary extra income for the Association's working expenses." It was further RESOLVED: (Bray/Wheeler) "That the Executive place on record its appreciation of the C.S. Hawkes Bay Branch efforts in conducting the pilot investigation into the scheme."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The Secretary presented a financial statement setting out bank balance at date, income and expenditure to date, and budgetary forecast to the end of the financial year. He also presented a statement of accounts requiring the Executive's authorisation for payment. After brief discussion, it was RESOLVED: (Barrow/Cloake) "That the Treasurer's statement be adopted and that all accounts enumerated therein be passed for payment. Further that the Secretary's action in effecting prior payment in some cases be endorsed."

EDITOR'S REPORT: The Editor, Mr J. McFadzien, submitted a written report, circulating copies to all members.

Editorship: Mr McFadzien advised that he did not feel he could do justice of the job of Editor now that his personal circumstances had changed and indicated that while he was prepared to carry on until the August issue or if absolutely necessary, for a further full year, the Executive should take some steps to obtain a replacement as soon as possible. He suggested that the possibilities might be tested by inviting applications through the journal to be addressed to the General Secretary. In the course of discussion, members tried to think of any suitably qualified person within the industry who would be interested in taking on the position but no positive suggestions were forthcoming. The point was also made that if another Editor was appointed he would have to be fully acquainted at the time of application with the extent of the job and time involved so that he would have the proper opportunity of considering the position in relation to the salary or honorarium which the Executive could offer, before finalising his application. Members were sorry that the Editor would not re-consider his decision to relinquish the position but at the same time expressed their understanding and acceptance of his position. It was finally RESOLVED: (Wheeler/Bray) "That the Executive explore the field of possibly qualified persons to undertake the Editorship of the Association's journal and as a first step, advertise the position through the May issue of the Beekeeper seeking applications for consideration."

Library Scheme: The Editor commented upon the proposal which had been referred to the Executive by the South Canterbury Branch, that a National Beekeeping Library be established with reference

books available on hire to beekeepers. He advised that he had given the matter considerable thought and made the following recommendations:-

1. The Library to be the property of the Association and be named "The National Beekeepers' Association Library."
2. The Librarian to be appointed by the Executive and the books to be available to the Editor of the Journal when required.
3. Suitable publicity for the Library to be given through the N.Z. Beekeeper Journal.
4. That Mr Chris Dawson be invited to act as Librarian.
5. That the Librarian and Editor draw up a simple set of Library Rules for the approval of the Executive.
6. If possible a small sum say £5. Os. Od. should be placed at the disposal of the Librarian for the initial purchase of items such as rubber stamps, catalogue equipment etc.

RESOLVED: (Cloake/Ward) "That the Editor's recommendations be adopted in toto." It was further RESOLVED: (Wheeler/Barrow) "That the Executive records appreciation of the thought and efforts devoted by the Editor in bringing down his report on this scheme."

BURSARY SCHEME: Mr T.S. Wheeler had previously furnished a written report to all members on the investigations carried out by postal questionnaire by a sub-committee of his Branch into the feasibility of introducing a National Beekeeping Bursary to be awarded at 3 to 4 yearly intervals to meet the costs of an overseas study tour by some outstanding young beekeeper. Members discussed the report and recommendations and it was felt that the only limiting factor was that of finance. Following Mr Wheeler's suggestion the General Secretary had already written to the A.N.Z. Bank Limited seeking an indication of their interest or otherwise in sponsoring the bursary. No reply was to hand to date. In the course of discussion it was considered that a greater chance of success with the raising of finance may exist in the seeking of a number of sponsors who might collectively provide the finance required without being committed individually to a large financial outlay. It was decided therefore, that the Secretary should write to the following firms and organisations seeking their support and that the matter be further considered in the light of their response:-

Winstones Ltd; N.Z. Glass Manufacturing Co. Ltd; Alex Harvey & Sons Ltd; W.H. Bond & Co; J. Gadsden & Co; Crown Crystal Glass Co. Ltd; Plastic Products Ltd; Australian Consolidated Industries Plastic Division; Kimptons Ltd; N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority; and N.Z. Insurance Co. Ltd. RESOLVED: (Bray/Ward) "That the Executive place on record its appreciation to Mr Wheeler, his wife, and the members of the South Auckland Branch sub-committee for their valued efforts in undertaking the full investigation of the scheme."

ADVERTISING ON EXPORT HONEY CONTAINERS: The Secretary read a letter from the Nelson Branch deplored the lack of visible advertising on export honey containers and recommending that the containers be so marked as to advertise N.Z. and N.Z. Honey while in transit. It was pointed out that the Honey Marketing Authority had already given consideration to this factor and was currently arranging for the adequate marking of export honey containers. The Secretary was instructed to write advising the Branch accordingly.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BOARD - REPRESENTATION: Correspondence was read from the Agricultural Chemicals Board drawing the

Executive's attention to the fact that the initial 3 year term of its representative on the above Board expired at 31 March 1963 and seeking the Executive's nomination for the ensuing 3 year term. The Secretary advised that he had communicated with Mr T.E. Pearson of Canterbury (the present representative on the Board) seeking his consideration to the acceptance of a further term as the Executive's representative.

Mr Pearson had replied indicating his willingness to so act for a further term. RESOLVED: (Bray/Wheeler) "That the Executive reaffirms its appointment of Mr T.E. Pearson as its representative and Mr J.K. Bray as his deputy and that the Secretary write to Mr Pearson conveying advice of such reappointment and thanking him for his efforts on the Association's part to date."

C.O.P. SCHEDULE: Reference was made to the last review of the cost of production schedule carried out by the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture dated 20 February 1963. Members considered that the costing was relatively accurate with the exception of the item of owner's remuneration which was considered to be set at an unrealistically low level. It was decided that the Secretary write to the Director General of Agriculture thanking him for the revised schedule but pointing out the Executive's views in relation to remuneration of owners as calculated in the schedule.

ECONOMIC POSITION OF DARK HONEY PRODUCERS: The Executive considered a letter from the President of the Bay of Plenty Branch N.B.A. drawing attention to the serious financial plight of many Beekeepers in the Bay of Plenty area following the Honey Marketing Authority's reduction in the level of payout on light amber and amber grade honeys. The matter was discussed generally without conclusion and it was decided that further consideration of the matter be deferred till after the Industry Assessment Meeting had concluded and the recommendations of that Committee were known.

CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS: The Secretary read correspondence with the Secretary of North Otago Branch of the Association concerning detailed arrangements for the hosting of the 1963 Dominion Conference in Oamaru. The Branch had proceeded to date on the assumption that Conference would be held on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 24, 25 and 26 July 1963. The arrangements made by the Branch to date were reviewed and satisfaction expressed. It was decided to leave the final arrangements in the hands of the General Secretary and the Hosting Branch. It was further decided that an invitation be extended firstly to the Minister of Agriculture to officially open Conference and failing his ability to attend to the Director General of Agriculture.

COMB HONEY PRODUCER'S ASSOCIATION: The Secretary read a letter from Mr H.C. Belin, Secretary of the above recently formed Association seeking affiliation with the N.B.A. The matters leading to the formation of the Comb Producer's Association and the implications of their affiliation with the N.B.A. were discussed at some length. It was finally decided that they be advised that the National Beekeepers' Association rules did not permit of such an affiliation and to further point out that the N.B.A. existed to serve all producers in all categories and that if Honey producers in Northland referred their problems to the General Executive, the latter would be pleased to give attention to their particular problems and to take up their case in appropriate quarters.

Adjournment: The meeting finally adjourned at 1 a.m. on Thursday 21 March 1963.

Resumption: The Meeting resumed at 8.45 p.m. on Thursday 21 March 1963.

TRAINING SCHEME: A written report from Mr J.W. Fraser conveying results of an investigation into the feasibility of the above, was read.

The report indicated that on the basis of replies received to the questionnaire, the running of any practical courses into better beekeeping and production techniques would meet with general favour and support, from the majority of beekeepers. RESOLVED: (Wheeler/Ward) "That the report be received and that thanks be extended to Mr Fraser for his efforts as convenor of the Investigating Committee." In further discussion, the Executive considered that some efforts should be made to implement a trial session and in this regard, it was RESOLVED: (Barber/Barrow) "That Mr Wheeler be nominated to act with his Local Branch, and Apiary Instructor, to organise an instruction programme with a three point itinerary for the North Island during the coming winter." Mr Wheeler indicated his interest in the scheme and his willingness to so act.

NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN APICULTURE: Further consideration was given to the standards which the Executive had recommended be applied in screening applicants for the honorary Diploma in Apiculture. It was at length RESOLVED: (Ward/Barrow) "That the notes for guidance prepared by the General Secretary and issued to Branches, with the deletion of section 4 (B) be adopted as a standard on which to base recommendations to the Examining Board of the Institute of Horticulture for the issue of the Diploma in Apiculture." Consideration was thereupon given to the remaining list of applications referred for comment by the Institute. As a result of this consideration it was decided that endorsement be given to the following:-

Mr R.C. Abernethy of Owaka. Mr J.H. Lowe of Tauranga.
Mr R.D. Bennie of Ranfurly. Mr W.I. Haines, Kaitaia.

SECRETARIAL POSITION: It was noted that the General Secretary had given notice of his intention to resign as at October 1963 and members considered that the matter of future secretarial services must be clarified at this meeting. During the Secretary's absence on other business, the matter was discussed at considerable length. On his return it was acknowledged by the Executive that the present administration fee was unrealistic from their knowledge of the work involved especially in times when major matters arose requiring urgent and concentrated attention lasting over a period of some months. He was advised that the Executive desired to neither lose his services nor to see him continue for a further indefinite period at an inadequate remuneration but that while the Executive had insufficient funds and until Conference took a realistic step to provide extra funds for the Association's running, they were not in a position to pay a higher figure. He was asked to consider extending the term of his services for a further twelve months on the basis of the present administration fee of £750 per annum on the understanding that if a major problem arose which required concentrated effort over a period and a heavy commitment in time that the Executive would endeavour to make such extra recompense available to him as was within their power at the time. The Secretary in reply made it clear that he enjoyed the work and was personally reluctant to relinquish the position on these grounds. He was, however, obliged to consider the economics of all of his work especially in view of heavy office overhead which had to be recouped pro rata out of all work. He reiterated his view that under the normal conditions and work commitments which had obtained over the past few years, an administration fee of less than one thousand pounds per annum would be quite inadequate. It was unfortunate that Conference on two successive occasions had rejected the Executive's proposals for providing the Association with adequate finance for functioning. It was noted that further proposals for strengthening the Association's financial position would be coming forward at this years Conference and he therefore

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indicated his willingness to continue for another twelve months [till October 1964] at a salary of £750 per annum. It was suggested to him that over this period he might be able to limit his loss to some extent by confining his work to the necessary minimum.
RESOLVED: (Bray/Cloake) "That the Secretary's offer to continue until October 1964 at an administrative allowance of £750 per annum be accepted with gratitude."

GENERAL:

Various items of general business were discussed briefly before the meeting terminated at 11.15 p.m.

CONFIRMED

DATE... 20th June... 1963... CHAIRMAN... T.P. Wheeler.....

RESOLVED (Bray/Cloake)



"That the Secretary be asked to consider extending the term of his services [to October 1964] on the basis of the present administration fee of £750 p.m. on the understanding that he attend to all routine matters but that in the event of a planned project, consideration be given to extra payment"

The Secretary signified his acceptance.

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PRESENT: Messrs T.S. Wheeler, (Chairman) J.K. Bray; H. Cloake; D.A. Barrow; D.L. Ward; and the General Secretary (Mr R.A. Fraser).

ATTENDING: Mr J. McFadzien, Editor, N.Z. Beekeeper.

APOLOGY: An apology for unavoidable absence was tendered on behalf of Mr J.R. Barber, Dominion President who was engaged at a meeting of the Honey Marketing Authority in Auckland. Mr Barber was expected to attend at the evening session of the Executive Meeting. His apology was sustained.

MINUTES: Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 1963 had been circulated to members prior to this meeting, and the Chairman called for a motion of confirmation. Mr Cloake considered that the minutes as written did not accurately record the Executive's intention in relation to the retention of the Secretary's services. He acknowledged that this had probably occurred through the Executive's failure to properly word a resolution at the time leaving the Secretary to interpret its views and frame an appropriate resolution. It was at length agreed that two sentences appearing in the report and minutes should be deleted and the resolution recorded should be rephrased. This was attended to and it was then RESOLVED: (Bray/Ward) "That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 1963 as circulated but subsequently amended, be confirmed as a true and correct record of such meeting."

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS & PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION: The Secretary reported that it had not been possible in the limited time available since the Association's end of financial year to produce a statement of accounts for the Executive's consideration and this matter was therefore deferred until the Executive's July meeting prior to Conference.

EDITORIAL POSITION - APPLICATIONS: Applications for the position of Editor as advertised in the May issue of the N.Z. Beekeeper, were tabled from Messrs L.W. Goss of Christchurch and Mr C. Dawson of Timaru. Mr McFadzien commented that he was prepared to continue in his present position until after the 1964 Conference of the Association so that the need for decision on his replacement did not become urgent for this meeting. After discussion it was RESOLVED: (Ward/Barrow) "That decision on the appointment of a new Editor, be deferred to the Executive Meeting in Oamaru prior to the July Dominion Conference and that the present applicants be requested to attend such meeting for interview. Further, that reasonable arrangements be made for the interview of any subsequent applicants by Executive members in each Island according to circumstances."

BURSARY SCHEME: Mr Wheeler reported on further steps taken to provide financial backing for the bursary scheme previously endorsed by the Executive in principle. The Secretary read correspondence to and from a number of firms dealing in Beekeepers supplies. In answer to his invitation, four firms had indicated their willingness to financially sponsor a bursary award and their joint pledges of assistance amounted to £90 per annum. No invitation had as yet been sent to the New Zealand Insurance Co., N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority or Kimptons Ltd. in accordance with the Executive's previous resolution and it was decided to write to these concerns also inviting their support financially. The target of £125 per annum income was now within sight and it appeared likely that the bursary scheme could be proceeded with. Final decision on the matter was deferred until the Executive's July 1963 meeting by which time it was hoped to have further indications of financial support from Kimptons Ltd., N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority and N.Z. Insurance Co. Ltd.

PRACTICAL TRAINING SCHEME: At the Executive's previous meeting, Mr Wheeler had been deputed to organise the holding of one day seminars dealing with practical beekeeping topics to be held at three branch centres within the North Island in the coming year. Mr Wheeler reported upon the progress that he had made in this regard and the difficulties which he had encountered with the Department of Agriculture in the making available of suitable apiary staff officers to assist with the programme. Arrangement had subsequently been made by the General Secretary with the Director of Horticulture for the matter to be reconsidered at the Joint Meeting to be held on 21 June and Mr I.W. Forster, Apiculturist of Oamaru had been appointed by the Department to liaise with Mr Wheeler in the production of a suitable format for the seminars and plans for their implementation. After brief discussion the matter was deferred until the meeting with Departmental Officers on the following day.

EDITOR'S REPORT: Mr J. McFadzien advised that he was willing to continue his duties until after the 1964 Conference of the Association. He considered that it would be desirable for a new Editor to be appointed in time for him to give assistance with one issue of the Journal prior to this date. On the proposal to establish a National Beekeepers' Association Library, Mr McFadzien advised that he had been ⁱⁿ close contact with Mr C. Dawson of Timaru and that they had reached some agreement on necessary measures for the establishment of the library. A draft of proposed library rules of management were tabled for consideration. RESOLVED: (Cloake/Barrow) "That the Editor's report be received and adopted."

RESOLVED: (Ward/Barrow) "That the proposed Library Rules as submitted by the Editor be adopted "in toto" and that a Library Committee of Management be and is hereby established for the day to day control and management of the library, such committee to comprise the N.B.A. Executive member in closest proximity to the domicile of the library from time to time, the librarian, and an appointee of the nearest N.B.A. Branch, the committee to control the finance of the library, attend payment of all necessary accounts, preparation of annual report and accounts of the library and be generally responsible for all library activities, subject only to the overall policy dictates of the N.B.A. Executive."

RESOLVED: (Ward/Bray) "That this Executive expresses its appreciation to Messrs J. McFadzien and C. Dawson for their preliminary work on the establishment of the N.B.A. library."

RESOLVED: (Bray/Cloake) "That the N.B.A. Library Committee shall not incur debt liability without the prior approval of the General Executive."

HIVE REGISTRATION FEE SCHEME: At the invitation of the Executive, Mr A.C. Bridle, General Manager of the N.Z. Poultry Board and Egg Marketing Authority attended the meeting to advise on the Poultry Board's Registration Fee Scheme. Mr Bridle advised on the finance produced by the Registration Fee, the method of collection through Post Offices, and by deduction from Poultry farmer's cheques through the Egg Marketing floor and other methods and also upon the costs of collection in relation to the total revenue produced. In answer to a question from the General Secretary, (who had previously discussed this matter with Mr Bridle) Mr Bridle confirmed that a considerable amount of administrative work was entailed with the collection of the levy and maintenance of proper records up to Government Audit standards and that such services were provided by the N.Z. Poultry Board without any direct charge against the funds produced by the registration fees.

Mr Bridle was thanked for his attendance and after he had withdrawn from the meeting, the Executive discussed the practicability of introducing a like scheme i.e. an Apiary Registration Fee scheme for the production of extra finance. After considerable discussion, it was generally agreed that a registration fee did not hold the answer to the Association's financial problems and should not be proceeded with.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE: At 4.30 p.m. the Executive welcomed Mr A.M.W. Greig, Director of Horticulture to its meeting. Various matters of mutual interest were discussed as follows:-

Diplomas in Apiculture: Mr Greig said that he was concerned at the short list so far produced by the Executive from applications received for the Honorary Diploma in Apiculture. He considered that the Executive may be setting unduly high standards for the award and recommended that reconsideration be given to the applications previously received. The Executive undertook to do so and to advise the Secretary of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture prior to the Institute's meeting on Wednesday 26 June.

Private Activities of Apiary Instructors: Mr Greig referred to the difficulty the Department was experiencing in recruiting replacements to fill vacancies on the staff of Apiary Instructors. An application had recently been received from a practising beekeeper who was prepared to join the Department's Staff on condition that he could retain his 100 hives. He asked the Executive's views on the engagement of Apiary Officers who had a private and independent interest in beekeeping. The Executive indicated that it had no objection to Apiary Instructors running a few hives say up to 50 in their spare time but considered that any greater number may be prejudicial to the proper carrying out of their Instructor's duties.

Honey Grading: Mr Greig referred to the fact that Mr Roberts had passed away during the last week and that the Department was still experiencing difficulty in the maintenance of its Honey Grading service in Auckland. He advised that the Department was at present considering plans for a change in the method of honey grading to grade into broad categories rather than to fine points of flavour condition and colour. The present procedures were unnecessarily onerous and were having a distinct bearing on the Department's difficulty in replacing the grading staff at Auckland. He advised that before any change was made in the present system the Executive would be given a full opportunity of considering the Department's new proposals and of commenting thereon.

Joint Meeting: The ground to be covered by the Joint Meeting between Departmental Officers and Association and Authority Representatives on the following day were also referred to by Mr Greig. He advised that he would be happy to use the approach notes prepared by the General Secretary as a starting point for the meeting.

After brief discussion on generalities he at length withdrew from the meeting which then adjourned for dinner.

RESUMPTION: The meeting resumed at 8 p.m.

HONORARY DIPLOMAS IN APICULTURE: Further applications were received from Mr L. Reisterer, J.D. Lorimer, B.W. Forsith, J. Forster, H.N. Tuck, J.G. McKenzie, W.T. Herron, A.H. Simpson, J.H. Watson, R.H. Hobbs, R. Davidson and R.V. Glasson. The applications had been referred for consideration by the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture. After brief discussion and consideration of the applications, it was RESOLVED: (Cloake/Ward) "That all of the applications as read be endorsed and that the Institute be advised accordingly." With reference to the submissions made earlier in the day by Mr Greig on the apparent restrictions imposed by the Executive in its consideration of previous applications it was RESOLVED: (Cloake/Ward) "That the Secretary circularise all Branches requesting them to urgently bring to the notice of all suitably qualified beekeepers the fact that applications for the Honorary Diploma in Apiculture close in September 1963 and recommending that they give early attention to the sponsoring of further applications from suitably qualified persons."

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Mr Bray referred to the fact that the last Conference had requested the Executive to investigate the possibility of revising existing Association Subscription Rates as a means to strengthening the Association's finances. The matter was fully debated and although there was a division of opinion over the value of increasing subscriptions, it was decided on a majority feeling that an increase in subscription rates was not in the best interests of the Association and should not be proceeded with. It was therefore decided that the Executive not sponsor any remits to Conference on the subject but that the matter be referred to in the Annual Report to Conference.

OBITUARIES: Reference was made to the recent passing of Mr L. Robins who had been one of the early National Presidents of the Association and to Mr D. Roberts of the Department of Agriculture, Auckland. It was RESOLVED: "That messages of sympathy be sent to relatives of both."

ANNUAL REPORT: The Secretary sought an indication from members as to matters which should be referred to in the 1963 Annual Report of the Association. In addition to the question of subscription increases, it was decided that reference should also be made to price cutting in relation to which producers should be exhorted to restrain from supplying packers who were known to cut prices on the local market.

H.M.A. DEPUTATION: At this juncture the meeting received Messrs J.W. Fraser, Vice Chairman, N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority, Mr C. Gosse, General Manager, and Mr J.R. Barber, Member. Mr Barber advised on the Export Development Conference sponsored by Government at which he had attended on behalf of the Association. The scope of the Conference and various submissions which Mr Barber had been able to make on behalf of the Honey Industry were dealt with by him briefly. Mr J.W. Fraser reported upon the meeting of the Honey Marketing Authority just concluded in Auckland. He apologised on behalf of the Chairman, Mr G.E. Gumbrell for his non-attendance and inability to attend the Joint Meeting to be held on the following day. Various matters of general interest were discussed including the approach to the Joint Meeting with the Department on the following day. It was considered and agreed in relation thereto that the following matters were of greatest priority and should form the first considerations of the Joint Meeting:-

- (1) Limited Advisory and Research Services in Production and Market Development.
- (2) Uneconomic Returns to some Producers and Marketability of Certain Honeys.
- (3) Lack of Co-ordinated Consideration of Industry Problems.

The meeting was at length adjourned at 11.15 p.m.

RESUMPTION: The meeting was reconvened at 5.15 p.m. in the Offices of the Department of Agriculture, Thorndon Quay, Wellington on Friday 21 June 1963.

DIPLOMAS IN APICULTURE: Further applications for the award of the Honorary Diploma in Apiculture were considered. As a result, the following were approved for endorsement to the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture:- Mr J.S. Spence, Mr E.O. Ball, Mr H. Cloake, Mr J. Glynn, Mr N.E. Glass. It was then RESOLVED: (Cloake/Ward) "That those applications for the Honorary Diploma in Apiculture on which the Executive is not able to recommend, be returned to the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture with the recommendation that they referred to the appropriate District Apiary Instructor as a more

competent authority for an opinion." Ten applications falling within this category were to be returned.

The meeting terminated at 6.05 p.m.

CONFIRMED

21 November 1963 Chairman..... Wesselski.....

1963 COMMENCING AT 10A.M.

PRESENT:- Messrs T.S. Wheeler; J.K. Bray; D.L. Ward; H. Cloake; D.A. Barrow; J.R. Barber; and the General Secretary, (Mr R.A. Fraser).

ATTENDING:- Mr J. McFadzien, Editor, N.Z. Beekeeper.

CHAIRMAN:- The President, Mr J.R. Barber sought leave to attend part of the Honey Marketing Authority's Meeting and the chair was taken initially by the Vice President, Mr T.S. Wheeler.

MINUTES:- Minutes of the Meeting of the General Executive held in Wellington on 20 June 1963, copies of which had been circulated to members were taken as read and received.

RESOLVED: (Ward/Bray) "That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 1963 be confirmed as a true and correct record."

TUTU AND TOXIC HONEY:- The Secretary had circularised members just prior to the meeting advising on the Rotorua outbreak. He briefly acquainted members with the latest developments as he knew them and it was decided that further consideration of this topic be deferred until after the arrival of the Director of Horticulture later in the afternoon.

HONORARY DIPLOMAS IN APICULTURE:- A number of applications had been received from the Secretary direct from the Canterbury Branch of the Association just prior to his departure for the South Island. Although the applications had not been received through the normal channel, i.e. The Institute of Horticulture, it was decided to consider same and to then forward them on to the Institute with appropriate recommendations. As the result of this consideration, the following were endorsed:- Mr Ron H. Newton; Mr Ralph R. Bushby; Mr E.B. Hight Mr C.W. Hill; Mr T.F. Penrose; Mr T.E. Pearson. In the case of E.B. Hight, the following resolution was passed (Cloake/Bray) "That because of special qualifications the application of E.B. Hight for the award of the Honorary Diploma in Apiculture be endorsed by this Executive." An application from Ernest W. Elliot was deferred for investigation.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the final date for the issue of honorary diplomas by the Institute was 8 September 1963 and discussion ensued on the manner in which further applications coming to hand might be dealt with if the Executive did not meet again before this date. This matter was also deferred pending discussion with the Director of Horticulture.

NATIONAL BURSARY:- In accordance with the Executive's previous decision, approaches had been made to Messrs Kimpton Bros., England, the Honey Marketing Authority and the N.Z. Insurance Co.Ltd. in an endeavour to elicit further financial support for the bursary scheme. No replies were to hand from Honey Marketing Authority or the N.Z. Insurance Co.Ltd. but a reply was received from Messrs Kimpton Bros. Red Carnation Ltd., England pledging one hundred pounds per annum for 3 years as a donation towards support of this scheme. Members noted with pleasure that the receipt of this further offer now made the bursary a feasible project and it was RESOLVED: (Cloake/Bray) "That it be a recommendation to the incoming Executive that a sub-committee of the Executive be set-up to develop adequate organisation for the proper establishment of bursary."

EDITOR'S REPORT:- The Editor, Mr John McFadzien submitted a written report in which he referred to size and composition of the mailing list, fluctuations in the size of issues of the Journal, and present printing arrangements. It was noted

that the mailing list for commercial honey producers had last been revised in 1961 and it was considered that the Department of Agriculture should be asked again to assist with revision of this list by the supply of the latest records of registered commercial producers and their addresses. After brief discussion, it was RESOLVED: (Wheeler/Ward) "That the Editor's report be received and adopted."

Free Issue of Journals: Mr Bray raised the question of the supply of Journals free of charge to non-members of the Association, considering that the time had come for a review of policy in this matter in view of the fact that the Association's finances continued to be in a weak condition. Other members however, considered that the savings which could be effected in this regard were relatively insignificant. The Journal gained in importance by virtue of the fact that it fulfilled the function of an official news organ for the whole of the commercial sector of the industry in New Zealand. The matter was not proceeded with further.

Editorial Position: The Secretary advised that up to the closing date for applications i.e. 15 July 1963, only two firm applications for the advertised position of Editor to the Journal had been received. These were from Messrs L.W. Goss of Christchurch and Mr D.G. King of Christchurch. The latter's application, which was a new one, was read in full. In accordance with the Executive's previous instructions, arrangement had been made for the applicants to wait upon the Executive for interview in Oamaru but Mr King had indicated his inability to attend. It was noted that Mr Goss would be arriving at 1 p.m. and further consideration of the matter was deferred until after the Executive had met him.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:- The Secretary presented the audited accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 May 1963. After consideration and discussion it was RESOLVED: (Barber/Bray) "That the annual accounts as tabled be received and adopted."



Accounts for Payment: The Secretary presented a schedule of accounts which had been paid in respect of the period from 30 March 1963 to 31 May 1963. Vouchers were attached for inspection. RESOLVED: (Bray/Wheeler) "That the schedule of accounts submitted covering vouchers Nos. 157 to 172 inclusive totalling £815. 2s. 11d. be passed for payment and that the Secretary's action in effecting prior payment be endorsed."

Frequency of Executive Meetings: Following discussion on the annual accounts, it was RESOLVED: (Cloake/Bray) "That it be a recommendation to the incoming President that consideration be given to the feasibility of holding Executive Meetings of shorter duration at more frequent intervals."

The meeting recessed for lunch at this juncture.

EDITORSHIP OF JOURNAL:- Upon resumption at 1.45 p.m. the Executive received Mr L.W. Goss of Christchurch for interview in respect of his application for the position of Editor to the N.Z. Beekeeper. Mr McFadzien absented himself from the Meeting at this stage. A lengthy discussion was had with Mr Goss on his previous experience, general training, facilities etc. and after he had withdrawn from the meeting it was RESOLVED: (Bray/Barrow) "That Mr L.W. Goss be appointed Editor of the N.Z. Beekeeper at an honorarium of £175 per annum with effect from 1 September 1963 and that the services of J. McFadzien be retained at his present honorarium until after the production of the November 1963 issue of the Journal."



When Mr McFadzien returned to the meeting, he was acquainted with the Executive's decision. Mr McFadzien referred to the lengthy association which he had had with with the industry in his capacity as Editor and once again expressed sorrow at having to relinquish the position due to his changed circumstances. His regrets were echoed by the Executive and it was RESOLVED: (Barber/Bray) "That this Executive place on record its extreme appreciation and gratitude of Mr J. McFadzien's lengthy term of devoted service to the industry in the position of Editor to the N.Z. Beekeeper." The motion was carried with acclamation.

MEETING WITH DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS:- At this juncture the meeting received Messrs A.M.W. Greig; (Director of Horticulture) Mr E. Smaellie; (Superintendent of Beekeeping) and Mr T. Palmer-Jones (Principal Scientific Officer in Apiculture). The following matters were dealt with:-

Beekeeping by Apiary Officers: Mr Greig referred to the difficulty which the section was experiencing in filling vacancies on the staff of the Apiary Section. Applications had been received from some beekeepers for a position with the Department however on the condition that they could retain and operate their present hive holdings. He sought an indication of the Executive's attitude to this matter. In considering this matter at a subsequent stage of the meeting, it was decided and agreed that no objection would be raised to an Apiary Instructor owning up to a maximum of 25 hives.

Honey Grading Methods: This matter had been referred to by Mr Greig at the Executive's previous meeting and he advised that before any change in procedure was introduced the full extent would be advised to the Executive and its views sought. At a later stage of the meeting when this matter was again considered it was RESOLVED: (Bray/Wheeler) "That urgency be accorded the appointment of sufficient grading staff and that if necessary further consideration be given to the appointment of a female assistant."

Location of West Coast Instructor: Mr Greig advised that the Department was having difficulty in retaining an officer to work on the West Coast. He advised that the Department was considering the location of the Instructor in Nelson in future and after considering the factors involved, the Executive intimated that it had no objection to the proposed change in location.

Honorary Diplomas in Apiculture: Further applications received by the Institute of Horticulture were presented to the Executive for its consideration by Mr Greig, who also advised that he would be announcing the initial 34 awards approved by the Institute in the course of his address to Conference the following day.

Agricultural Chemicals: The recent publicity given to 1080 poison and the possible danger of it finding its way into honey was discussed. Advice was given on tests carried out by Mr T. Palmer-Jones and on the steps taken by the Agricultural Chemicals Board and the Health Department for regulating the use of this poison. It was noted that further experiments were being conducted and that meantime the Rabbit Destruction Council had co-operated to alleviate any possible danger to public health by prohibiting the use of 1080 jam bait poisons for Rabbit Destruction work. Reference was also made to the attempts made by both General Secretary and Mr T. Pearson, (Member of the Agricultural Chemicals Board) to have the recent publicity rebutted by either the Board or the Departments of Health or Agriculture. It was considered however unwise to make any further press comment at this stage.

Mr Greig also referred to difficulties being experienced by the Agricultural Chemicals Board in the carrying out of its functions and drew attention to possible changes in the administration of the Board which might affect the Association's present representation on the Board. He considered that the Executive should give consideration

to the likely effect of any change in the present administration.

Tutu and Toxic Honey: The factors leading up to the withdrawal from sale of De-luxa and Springfield brands of honey following a suspected case of honey poisoning in Ngatea were reported upon by the three Departmental Officers. The Executive expressed its strong concern at the action which had been taken and the serious repercussions not only for the packer concerned but for the industry as a whole. The Officers were cross-examined on all steps which had been taken prior to the seizure of honey and those which should have been taken following last years' Joint Meetings on the tutu problem. Mr Greig said that he could not forecast the outcome of the present problem until further investigations and honey testing had been carried out. The Executive expressed its concern at the damage that could be done to the industry at this stage by press sensationalism and requested Mr Greig to communicate with the Minister asking him to make an official statement on the matter to allay public panic. Mr Greig agreed to do this.

After the three Officers had withdrawn, it was
RESOLVED: (Closke/Wheeler) "That it be a recommendation to the incoming Executive that immediate steps be taken to place before the Minister of Agriculture submissions on the Toxic honey problem expressing the concern of the Executive that the problem should have arisen again after the steps taken in the previous year and demanding that all possible steps be taken to safe-guard the best interests of the honey industry in the matter."

SOUTH AUCKLAND BRANCH RESOLUTIONS:- A letter from the South Auckland Branch conveying three resolutions was received. After consideration it was decided to advise the branch that the Executive is conscious of the matters raised and is already taking appropriate action to the full extent possible.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:- Submissions were received from the West Coast Branch and North Otago Branch of the Association in support of the nomination of the following for life membership of the Association:-
D. Cochren (West Coast); D.G. Hamilton (Oamaru); and L.K. Griffin (Southland) Full consideration was deferred until after the dinner adjournment and when the matter was again considered at a later stage of the meeting it was RESOLVED: (Barber/Cloake) "That the nominations of D.G. Hamilton and L.K. Griffin be endorsed." In the case of D. Cochren, it was decided to advise the Branch that in view of the fact that the qualification of service at national level in the industry could not be met, the Branch should consider making Mr Cochren a life member of the Branch rather than sponsor him for a national award.

The meeting adjourned for dinner at 6.30 p.m. and resumed again at 8.15 p.m.

MEETING WITH HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY:- Upon resumption the meeting received all members of the Honey Marketing Authority and recent developments in Marketing were reviewed as was the progress achieved at the Joint Assessment Meeting. In the latter regard the Chairman of the Authority explained his inability to attend some of the sessions. In connection with the bursary scheme the Authority felt it did not have the power to make a contribution under its present regulations and advised that the matter was being referred to the Auditor-General for opinion. With regard to the toxic honey question, Authority members were advised of the latest information gleaned from Mr Greig and the

other Departmental Officers. (On the night of 22 July the Authority and the Executive had held an Emergency Joint Meeting to discuss the matter, at which time it had been decided to release limited information to the press and to seek an official statement from the Minister on the matter.) After general discussion of the problem and of the conclusions reached by the Executive following its meeting with Departmental Officers in the afternoon, the Authority members withdrew.

HONORARY DIPLOMAS IN APICULTURE:- The further applications submitted by Mr Greig were considered and reconsideration was given to the application of E.W. Elliot. It was agreed unanimously that the applications of the following be endorsed:-

Messrs R.S. Walsh; E. Smaellie; T.S. Winter; L.H. Johnson; C.R. Paterson; L.A.M. Griffin; W. Jennings; T.A. Cropp; L.T. Cropp; L.G. Lyttle; H.S. Wilson; H.G. Knibb; and E.W. Elliot.

BURSARY SCHEME:- Mr Bray reported receipt of an offer from A. Ecroyd & Son Ltd. and Alliance Bee Supplies Co. Ltd. of an annual contribution of £10 each for 3 years. Receipt of this further offer was acknowledged with gratitude.

TUTU POISONING:- Messrs W.L. Holt and T. Gavin attended at this juncture and Mr Holt outlined the circumstances surrounding the case of honey poisoning which had recently occurred at Ngatea and had been attributed to honey packed by his Company. Mr Gavin covered aspects of the toxic honey scare in Northland last year and stated that producers in the North were most sceptical of the reliability of guinea pig tests for ascertaining toxicity. No case of honey poisoning had ever been reported in Northland.

ANNUAL REPORT:- After Messrs Gavin and Holt had retired from the Meeting, the Secretary presented a draft of the Annual Report to be presented to Conference for the consideration of the Executive. After minor modification it was
RESOLVED: (Barber/Wheeler) "That the Annual Report be approved for presentation to Conference."

N.B.A. LIBRARY:- Mr Cloake reported that Mr L.G. Lyttle, a previous president of the South Canterbury Branch, had been appointed by the Branch as the third member of the Library Committee. A good response had been received to the life membership offer and the funds likely to be produced from this source ensured that the library would be able to commence operations on a sound financial basis.

After brief discussion of general items the meeting at length terminated at 12.25 a.m.

CONFIRMED

DATE..... *21 November 1963* CHAIRMAN..... *Cloake*

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE
BOARD ROOM R.S.A. BUILDINGS, OAMARU ON FRIDAY 26 JULY 1963 AT 12.30p.m.

PRESENT:- Messrs H. Cloake; (Chairman) T.S. Wheeler; J. Glynn; P. Berry; G. Winslade; J.R. Barber; and the General Secretary (Mr R.A. Fraser).

ATTENDING:- Mr J. McFadzien, Editor N.Z. Beekeeper.

BANK AUTHORITY:- In connection with the authority held by the Bank of N.Z. Foxton for the operation of the Association's Banking Account, a new set of specimen signatures was executed by members of the newly elected Executive.

TOXIC HONEY:- The Chairman referred to the recommendation of the outgoing Executive that urgent representations be made to the Minister of Agriculture in connection with the latest occurrence of toxic honey in Rotorua. He considered that this matter should be attended to without delay preferably on the following Monday. The General Secretary would stay in the South Island over the weekend to prepare submissions. In view of the need for haste over the matter, members were asked whether they were prepared to forego the opportunity of considering submissions before they were presented. General agreement was expressed that the matter should be attended to without delay and it was RESOLVED: (Wheeler/Glynn) "That the General Secretary in consultation with the President and Vice-President immediately prepare submissions to place before the Hon. Minister of Agriculture in the matter of the toxic honey problem and that the President and the Secretary in company with the Chairman and Manager, Honey Marketing Authority, be deputed to present such submissions to the Minister."

In this regard it was noted than an appointment had been arranged for 2 p.m. Monday 29 July and that the Honey Marketing Authority Representatives would also be presenting submissions at this time.

The meeting terminated at 12.30 P.M.

CONFIRMED

DATE.....21/January/1963.....CHAIRMAN.....H.Cloake.....

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE GRAND
HOTEL WELLINGTON ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY 21 & 22 NOVEMBER 1963.

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PRESENT: Messrs H. Cloake; (Chairman) T.S. Wheeler; J.R. Barber; J. Glynn; P. Berry; G. Winslade and the General Secretary (Mr R.A. Fraser).

ATTENDING: Mr L.W. Goss, Editor N.Z. Beekeeper.

MINUTES: Minutes of the Meeting of the General Executive held in Oamaru on 23 & 26 July 1963, copies of which had been circulated to members, were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS: The Secretary advised that after discussion with the President, all resolutions arising out of Conference and the previous Executive Meeting had been actioned as a matter of course with the exception of Conference remits Nos. 16, & 36. These latter had been held over for consideration of the full executive at this Meeting. All correspondence outward in connection with the Conference resolutions was read and endorsed and inward replies likewise read and received.

H.M.A. ELECTIONS - MAXIMUM VOTES ALLOWABLE: With regard to Conference remit No. 28 it was noted that the Honey Marketing Authority in reply requested the Executive of the N.B.A. to formulate a definite proposal for submission to Government on which an amendment to the regulations could be based. In this regard it was at length RESOLVED (Barber/Wheeler) "That the Honey Marketing Authority be requested to give consideration to amending the H.M.A. regulations 1953 to extend the scale of voting qualifications set out in the table appearing in the schedule to the regulations until a maximum qualification of 30 votes is achieved with either the supply of 14 or more tons of honey or the purchase of Seals to the value of £131. 13s. 4d. or more."

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COSTS AND PRICES: Conference remit No. 36 in this regard was considered at length before it was RESOLVED: (Wheeler/Berry) "That this Executive considers that the setting-up of the proposed Costs and Prices Committee is not warranted and would not serve any useful purpose and accordingly, rejects the proposal."

ALLEGED TOXIC HONEY: The President and Secretary reviewed the action taken subsequent to Conference in preparing and submitting representations to the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the seizure of honey stocks the property of Springfield Apiaries Ltd. Further action prior to and following the legal proceedings brought by the Company against the Health Department were likewise detailed.

At this juncture the Meeting welcomed the Chairman, N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority (Mr G.E. Gumbrell) who was present by the invitation from the President to discuss the matter with the Executive and the Departmental Representatives who were due to meet the Executive later in the day. It was considered that when the Director of Horticulture attended he should be advised of the official attitude of both industry bodies and after considerable thought and discussion between the Executive and Mr Gumbrell it was RESOLVED: (Wheeler/Berry)

"That the Following statement drafted in collaboration with the Chairman of the H.M.A. be conveyed to the Minister of Agriculture:-

1. That as the matter of alleged toxicity of honey is of such vital importance to beekeepers, the N.B.A. together with the H.M.A. will take such steps as may be deemed necessary to safeguard the industry.

2. That we presume that the Department will take such action as it thinks fit to establish positive tests for toxicity and that the findings of such investigations will be made available to H.M.A. and N.B.A. before publication.
3. That before new Departmental Policy is formulated on the result of these investigations, we request that all evidence be considered by a joint meeting of representatives of the industry and interested State Departments.
4. That we are convinced that nothing should impede or delay any work on biological control of the hopper until such time as this work is proved to be unnecessary."

At 3 p.m. the meeting received Messrs A.M.W. Greig, Director of Horticulture and Mr R.S. Walshe, acting Superintendent of Beekeeping. Mr Greig advised that the Superintendent, Mr Smaellie was at present absent on sick leave. With regard to the alleged toxic honey question Mr Greig advised that following the Court Case concluded in Auckland, Government was at present considering the setting up of a scientific re-appraisal committee with a membership of several highly qualified scientific officers from both within and outside the Departments of Agriculture and Scientific Research with a view to re-checking all matters associated with the possible production of toxic honey. He envisaged that the investigation work would take some time to complete and that in the meantime it was the Department's intention to take interim precautions based on present knowledge to preclude a recurrence of the events which had taken place this year at Rotorua and the previous year in Northland. He advised that the Department would be circularizing all beekeepers in the northern part of the North Island suggesting minimum precautions in the ensuing season.

B.L. DISEASE: The Executive inquired of Mr Greig the Department's progress in implementing the report and recommendations of the combined meeting held in 1961 dealing with the eradication of the Bacillus Larvae disease. Mr Greig advised that owing to the volume of additional work which had been placed on the Department coupled with a shortage of administrative and field staff no progress had been made by the Department to date in implementing the Committee recommendations. He advised that the initial hold-up was in the administrative side of the Apiary Section and could give no guarantee as to when the matter might be put in hand.

DIPLOMA IN APICULTURE EXAMINATION COURSE: The Executive advised that it had received inquiries from beekeepers desiring to sit the examination course for the Diploma in Apiculture but that it appeared at the moment that no organisation existed for the institution of the examination course. No technical books appeared to be available covering the specific points mentioned in the syllabus to the examinations nor was the Executive aware of any appointment of examiners for the setting of papers and marking of same and the holding of practical examinations. Mr Greig advised that the matter was in the hands of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture under whose authority the diploma course had been sponsored. He suggested that the Executive communicate with the Institute in regard to the matters mentioned.

N.B.A. BURSARY: The purpose and method of organisation of the National Bursary in beekeeping was explained to the Director and it was mentioned to him that the support of the Apiary Section of the Department was desired to assist in the selection of candidates and the organisation of overseas study tours. Mr Greig indicated his support in principle but advised that if the assistance of the Department was required that an officer outside Wellington would be the best selection due to present administrative pressure.

ASSESSMENT MEETINGS: The question of the next line of development from the Assessment Meetings held earlier in the year was discussed, Mr Greig explaining some of the difficulties with which his Division was faced over the divided control within the Department between administrative and technical services. He considered that the Executive's best line of approach might be to acquaint the Minister with the findings of the Assessment Committees, seeking his consideration to proposals for improvement in Departmental services.

1080 POISON: Following on the "scare" publicity which had been given to this topic earlier in the year it was advised that work had been carried out by technical staff of the Department into the possible danger of the poison finding its way into honey from poisoned jam baits laid for Rabbit Destruction purposes. The technical tests had disclosed that while a severe danger existed of heavy bee mortality through the consumption of the poisoned material by bees, there was relatively little possibility of poison finding its way into honey in sufficiently significant quantities to constitute a danger to public health. As a result of the investigations and field trials conducted a recommendation was to be made to the Rabbit Destruction Council that 1080 poison jam baits be not laid near apiary sites.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY REPORT: Before the meeting adjourned for dinner, the Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, Mr G. E. Gumbrell gave a report covering salient factors dealt with at the last meeting of the Authority. The Chairman thanked him for his report and for his attendance and assistance at the Meeting.

PRICES AND PRICE CONTROL: The Meeting resumed at 8.15 p.m. The President and General Secretary reported on action which they had deemed necessary to take at short notice without consulting the Executive to apply for immediate adjustment of the Price Order following the Honey Marketing Authority's increased payout on top category honeys. After full discussion it was RESOLVED: (Berry/Wheeler) "That the action taken by the President and the Secretary in seeking an increase in the Price Order be endorsed."

BULK HONEY PRICES: The President advised that tentative arrangements had been made for himself and the Secretary to wait upon the Price Tribunal the following morning. He referred to an apparent anomaly in the existing Price Order with regard to categories for bulk honey and the prices for bulk honeys supplied into customer's own containers at the honey house. As a result of consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED: (Winslade/Glynn) "That the categories for bulk honey prices be amended from 20 lbs or less to 30 lbs or less and that the category of over 60 lbs be deleted in succeeding Price Orders." The Secretary and President were instructed to convey these views to the Price Tribunal at their Meeting the following day.

1964 CONFERENCE: RESOLVED: (Barber/Winslade) "That the Annual Conference and General Meeting of the Association in 1964 be held in Hastings on 29, 30 & 31 July (the last Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.)"

The Meeting adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

NATIONAL STUDY BURSARY: The meeting resumed on Friday 22 November at 10.10 a.m. with Mr Wheeler in the Chair while Messrs Cloake and Fraser were absent at the Price Tribunal. Initial consideration was given to the further steps required in the planning and the organisation of the National Bursary Award within the next three years now that sufficient finance for the award had been received from various donors. The Meeting was considering the factors in relation thereto at the time Messrs Cloake & Fraser returned to the Meeting at 10.45 a.m. The following decisions were reached:-

Broad Qualifications for Entrance:

1. The Applicant must be a member of the National Beekeepers' Assn.
2. The Applicant must possess a sound knowledge of commercial beekeeping practice in New Zealand and honey processing.
3. The Applicant must be under the age of 35 years at the time applications are called for.
(It was considered that applications for the first Award would be called in 1965)

Guiding Standards for Selection Panel: It was agreed that Applicants should preferably possess:-

- A. Reasonable standards of intelligence.
- B. Ability to speak and write well.
- C. Sincere interest in beekeeping and association affairs.
- D. Good personality and general character.
- E. Willingness to learn and impart knowledge gained.

It was further considered that the successful applicant should be required to possess photographic equipment and be prepared to use same in the course of the study tour to assist with addresses on his return.

Obligations on Return: It was considered that applicants should know in advance that the following obligations would be expected of them on their return from a study tour:-

- A. To address a minimum of five meetings of beekeepers (to be arranged) including Conference, within 12 months of return.
- B. To write a minimum of 2 articles for publication in the N.Z. Beekeeper within 12 months of return.

Selection Committee: It was decided that a selection Committee of 3 persons be established to determine the successful applicant for the award:-

One to be the Director of Horticulture or his nominee and the other two be members of the General Executive for the time being. (to be appointed)

Country of Study: In the case of first Award it was considered that Canada be the preferred country with emphasis on the study of production methods at Peace River and the study of processing methods in Manitoba;

Extension of the tour to U.S.A. if possible and practicable.

Duration of Tour: It was considered that the tour should be of 3 - 6 months duration, according to arrangements which could be made and finance required.

It was decided to publicise all the above details in connection with the Bursary so that prospective applicants falling within the respective age group would have ample opportunity to prepare themselves to meet qualifications laid down.

NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN APICULTURE: Correspondence was to hand from the Secretary, Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture, conveying full list of successful applicants for the Honorary Diploma in Apiculture. This list was handed to the Editor for publication in the Journal, but it was noted that the Institute desired publication to be withheld until after the list had appeared in its own organ. The Institute also advised on arrangements which it had in hand for the presentation of certificates to the successful candidates and these advices were received.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY ELECTION: A resolution from the Canterbury Branch Association in connection with the late despatch of voting papers to Electors at the recent election of their authority was noted. The Secretary informed the Executive that he had already written to the Minister in this matter and had received his assurance that the Returning Officer in the elections would be appropriately instructed to ensure that the same thing did not happen again.

INDUSTRY ASSESSMENT MEETINGS: Copies of the report of the second Assessment Meeting were tabled for the benefit of new members. The Meetings had now reached a stage where no further progress could be made until the future position was clarified with the Minister of Agriculture. The Executive expressed its agreement that the Secretary and President should wait upon the Minister of Agriculture at the earliest opportunity to acquaint him with the Association's views in this regard. Any written submission to be presented would be circulated for the prior comment of Executive members.

REPRESENTATION ON AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS BOARD: A resolution from the Gore Branch of the Association relative to the retention of Mr T.E. Pearson's services as the Association's Representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board was read. The Secretary advised that this was virtually a further endorsement of the Conference resolution passed in July on which he had already communicated to the Director-General of Agriculture. Correspondence in relation to this matter outward and inward was read for the benefit of members.

JOURNAL: Various matters in relation to the production of the N.Z. Beekeeper Journal were discussed and particularly the lateness of the August 1963 issue. Correspondence to and from the Timaru Herald Ltd., Publishers of the Journal in this connection was read. While members were most concerned at the repercussions of late publication in this case, it was considered that apart from this lapse the Company had given good service to the Association and accordingly it was agreed that the publishing arrangements with this firm should continue in the meantime.

The Editor was asked for his views on the opportunities for extending the circulation of the Journal and of the acquisition of further advertisements

to help meet the costs of publication. On the latter, he considered that the Market was limited but with regard to increased circulation he considered that a large field amongst hobbyist beekeepers in the country was as yet virtually untapped. As a result of consideration of this factor it was RESOLVED: (Wheeler/Winslade) "That an additional 100 copies of the February issue of the Journal be printed containing additional notes of interest to hobbyist beekeepers for distribution to beekeepers in this category in the Christchurch area as a trial effort. Further, that their membership of the Association be invited concurrently with such free issue of the Journal pointing out the advantages of membership such as free copies of the Journal, free Apiary Insurance and opportunity to participate in Branch Field Days and other activities etc."

TRAINING SEMINETTES: The possible development of the pilot effort organised by the South Auckland Branch of the Association last year to provide a special training day in matters of practical interest to beekeepers was discussed. In view of the fact that Mr I.W. Forster, Apiculturist of the Department of Agriculture who was interested in the project was located in Oamaru, Mr Winslade was asked whether he would undertake the further development of planning in this matter in liaison with Mr Forster and signified his willingness to so act. Relative files including post-mortem report from the South Auckland Branch were handed to Mr Winslade.

UNION MEMBERSHIP: The action taken by the General Secretary seeking exclusion of beekeepers from the list of respondents in conciliation proceedings brought by the Food Processing and Packing etc. Union of Employees was considered and endorsed. Mr Berry extended congratulations to the Secretary on the action which he had taken and these sentiments were echoed by other members. The point was made that this matter had only been learnt of by accident and the importance of Executive Members and Beekeepers generally acquainting the General Secretary with any and all matters considered of importance, was stressed.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT AND ACCOUNTS AUTHORISATION: The Secretary presented a schedule of accounts paid for the period from 1 July 1963 to 19 October 1963 requiring to be passed for payment. After clarification of various items of expenditure, it was RESOLVED: (Glynn/Barber) "That the schedule of Accounts presented totalling £1,187. 18s. 3d., represented by vouchers Nos. 173 to 211 inclusive be passed for payment and that the Secretary's action in effecting prior payment in some cases be endorsed." The Secretary also presented members with a Budgetary Forecast to the end of the Association's financial year 31 May 1964 and this was discussed at some length. Mr Berry questioned whether some economies could not be effected but after discussion was satisfied that the points raised had been closely considered by previous Executives and were impractical.



BURSARY FUNDS: It was noted that in accordance with the assurance given at last Conference, the General Secretary had arranged to separate the funds donated towards the Bursary and that these had been lodged on fixed deposit at 3½% at the Bank of New Zealand. Members expressed their agreement with the investment of these funds in this quarter and the Secretary's action was endorsed.